

November 28, 2005

**CHFS Focus Employee Spotlight: Tanda Dannelly,  
Adult Protective Services**

*Photo: Tanda Dannelly (right) pictured with Sue Crone of Adult Protective Services.*



Early in her career, Tanda Dannelly was given an assignment to investigate an elder maltreatment report at a nursing home, and her professional life was changed forever. These days, she is recognized as a leader in the adult protective services field and describes herself as a person who “would move a mountain to provide protection for an elderly person.”

Currently pursuing a master’s degree in social work from Spalding University, the married mother of two spends a great deal of her time serving on committees, facilitating trainings and working with constituents to better protect and serve the state’s elderly population.

“I have been employed with the Cabinet for 18 years,” said Dannelly, social service clinician II in the Bluegrass Service Region. “I currently investigate allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation of the elderly and vulnerable adults.”

Most recently, Dannelly, a member of the Department for Community Based Services’ Adult Protective Services branch, became the first recipient of the Spirit of NAPSA (National Adult Protective Services Association) Award. Dannelly was selected from a crop of nominees from around the country and received the award during a surprise ceremony in Frankfort at meeting for Service Region Administrators.

DCBS Commissioner Tom Emberton Jr. was on hand, along with the state’s SRAs, to recognize Dannelly for her efforts. Specifically, she was honored for developing relationships with community partners to increase collaboration on investigations, prevention activities and public awareness.

In addition, she has facilitated training through Eastern Kentucky University’s Criminal Justice Academy on issues of adult and elder maltreatment and currently is working to educate law enforcement, bank personnel and attorneys on aspects of exploitation in the elder population.

She also was instrumental in the formation of a four-county coordinating council on elder abuse, the Counsel on Elder Maltreatment Prevention, which she has chaired for the past two years. This group has sponsored two annual consortiums on elder abuse and initiated several projects to increase community awareness.

“I would love to be able to see this council grow and provide more services for our elderly,” said Dannelly. “Also, I would love to be able to provide more training to community partners in regard to elder abuse.”

On the state level, Dannelly has been a member of an elder abuse awareness task force and pushed for the passage of legislation to strengthened Kentucky’s adult protection statute.

In college, she said, she wasn’t sure if adult protective services would be the right choice for her, but the nursing home experience had a powerful impact on the way she viewed her work.

She recently shared the story, recalling walking down the facility’s sidewalk to encounter an elderly man, a double amputee, in a wheelchair on the front porch.

“When he saw me walking toward the door he rolled over to the door using all the energy he had available and opened the door for me,” said Dannelly. “I thought, ‘What a wonderful person he is!’ I find that with the elderly all you have to do is speak to them and they automatically appreciate you. I find the more I am involved with the elderly, the happier and more fulfilled I feel.”

Personally, Dannelly said she has been the most influenced by her mother, a septuagenarian who decided retirement simply wasn’t for her.

“She was not particularly happy with retirement and obtained a job working at a local factory,” said Dannelly. “She is 76 years of age and goes into work each day at 6 a.m. She works full-time and still has time for her family.”

Her mother’s fortitude has, in turn, helped to shape Dannelly’s view of the elderly. Sadly, she said, she is not sure if everyone holds the same perception.

“When I work with the elderly I find that lots of times family members and folks in the community feel that folks over the age of 70 are not productive members of society anymore,” she said. “I feel differently and feel that all elderly folks deserve to be cared for appropriately.”

November 28, 2005

Ultimately, Dannelly said, she wants to be remembered as a person who fought to protect those who might not have otherwise had someone to look out for them.

And, much like her own mother, Dannelly still manages to carve out time for her family when the devoted social worker isn't busy working on a case, facilitating training sessions or working with the community.

She said her leisure time is spent with her son, Devan, a soccer player, and daughter, Deneal, who likes to sing and play piano. Dannelly plays piano, as well.

Congratulations Tanda Dannelly for receiving the national Spirit of NAPSA Award and thank you for your service to the Cabinet.

## **CHFS Focus Program Spotlight: CUT IT OUT - Salons Against Domestic Violence**

Cosmetology students in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are learning some very special skills to complement their professional curriculum.

Through the CUT IT OUT program, students preparing for salon services careers are developing awareness of domestic abuse and learning to recognize warning signs and how to safely refer clients to local sources of help and support.

The national CUT IT OUT Program, sponsored by Southern Living At HOME, Clairol Professional and the National Cosmetology Association, has developed educational materials to help salon professionals learn to reach out to clients who may be victims of domestic abuse.

The program is administered in Kentucky by the Cabinet's Division of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services in the Department of Human Support Services.

Sharon Hilborn, DCADVS director, said partnering with the cosmetology community gives the division an important front-line resource to help victims access the help they need.

"In Kentucky, we want domestic violence victims to have every possible opportunity to get help. This program offers a unique way to expand our outreach to women in abusive relationships," Hilborn said. "Domestic violence and

sexual abuse victims often lead very isolated lives, restricted in their movements, their exposure to others, their ability to seek help. Getting their hair or nails done is sometimes the only time these women are out of the sight or control of their abusers."

Gordon Miller, executive director of NCA said while salon professionals aren't counselors, they often become trusted confidants and sounding boards for clients.

"The salon professional is an experienced listener who will use those skills to identify victims and distribute information about local resources," Miller said.

Dianne Mooney, founder and executive director of Southern Living At HOME said, "This important program will help empower women and create positive change in their lives."

Kentucky's program currently offers domestic abuse awareness and response training to KCTCS cosmetology students to establish an initial pool of enthusiastic trainers and confirm how well the program is being received. Hilborn said modifications will be made as needed to enhance program presentations and training schedules to ensure both a high quality program and effective, sustained real-world application.

More than 230 students on six KCTCS campuses just completed the first CUT IT OUT training semester. Hilborn said the DCADVS hopes to expand the program to include independent beauty schools in addition to training offered through the community and technical college system. One salon has already contacted her to request CUT IT OUT training for its staff.

"As word about the program gets around, more training opportunities will be asked for and offered," Hilborn said. "Local domestic violence coordinating councils have already begun making contact with local salon operators to promote the program and the response so far is very positive."

## **One of nation's largest winter coat drives benefits Kentucky students, families**

*Girl Scouts collecting coats for family resource and youth services centers*

Instead of throwing out those winter coats the kids have outgrown, give them to a Girl Scout.



The Wilderness Road Girl Scouts Council of Central and Eastern Kentucky has organized one of the largest coat drives ever conducted by the national non-profit group One Warm Coat. More than 160 Girl Scout troops are working to collect new and clean, gently worn winter coats and jackets for children and adults. The coats will be delivered to and distributed by the state's school-based family resource and youth services centers.

"The goal of the One Warm Coat project is to provide any person with a warm coat, free of charge," said Sherri Lewis Wood, the program's national coordinator. "The One Warm Coat project being conducted by the Girl Scouts in Kentucky is one of the largest we've been involved in".

The coat collection drive began Nov. 19 and continues until Dec. 3. Wendy Henry, Wilderness Road Council communications manager, said coats of all shapes and sizes are welcome, but children's sizes are needed most.

"This is the first year we have done this community service project," Henry said. "Our troops have been very enthusiastic about collecting coats to help everyone in their communities stay warm this winter."

Jane Seltsam, director of the Cabinet's Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, said the Girl Scouts' One Warm Coat drive is a good way for Kentuckians to help children and families stay warm this winter.

"I'm so proud of the scouts who have adopted the FRYSCs for this great project," Seltsam said. "This is a partnership between a highly effective service and leadership group and a ready-made distribution and referral network to ensure children and families who need winter coats this year are able to have them. We couldn't be more pleased to have this special group doing such a great service on behalf of our students and their families."

The state's FRYSC help at-risk students deal with non-academic barriers to learning and connect both students and their families to vital services as a way to further enhance school performance and promote family self-sufficiency. The centers were created by the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act.

"A child who is cold or embarrassed because she doesn't have a winter coat to wear isn't going to be focused on her classes," Seltsam said. "The simple gesture of donating a clean, gently used winter coat can give a child one less thing to worry about and one more thing to help him or her succeed in school. That's the very definition of holiday spirit."

To donate a coat to the Girl Scout's One Warm Coat community service project, visit [www.onewarmcoat.org](http://www.onewarmcoat.org) to find a donation center near you.

### **Photo gallery features children waiting to be adopted; Display open to public through Dec. 8**

Portraits of several Kentucky foster children who are waiting for adoption are on display in Owensboro for the next two weeks.

Ten photos from the Shining Star Photo Gallery will be showcased through Dec. 8 at the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Department for Community Based Services office at 311 W. Second St.

The gallery is a collection of portraits by 18 professional photographers from the Louisville area and one photographer from Owensboro, Keith Williams. It is designed to help find adoptive families for children in the state's Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP). The Cabinet and Louisville's WLKY Wednesday's Child -- a nonprofit organization that promotes public awareness of adoption -- are cosponsors of the display.

The public can view the gallery at the DCBS office from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on weekdays through Dec. 8.

Over the past year, the gallery has traveled to Louisville churches, businesses, cultural events, the Louisville Adoption Fair and the Kentucky State Fair. These children with diverse interests and backgrounds featured in the portraits are a good representation of the children for whom SNAP is working to find homes.

"Our hope is that the more people who see these photos, the better the chances of adoption are for these wonderful children," said DCBS Commissioner Tom Emberton. "Sadly, we always have children waiting in the wings for safe, loving homes. However, we can improve their chances of adoption through projects like this gallery. These moving portraits show the true 'face' of SNAP and encourage more families to explore adoption."

Since 1979, SNAP has been recruiting adoptive families for Kentucky's waiting foster children -- many of whom are older, have medical needs or are part of sibling groups. The children have been featured on WLKY's "Wednesday's Child," on WLEX's "Thursday's Child" in





November 28, 2005

Lexington, in the SNAP photo book and on the SNAP Web page.

About 400 SNAP children are currently available for adoption. To learn more about adoption and SNAP, visit [www.chfs.ky.gov/snap](http://www.chfs.ky.gov/snap) or call (800) 928-4303.

### Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence unveils new initiative to raise awareness about domestic violence

*Pence encourages Kentuckians to donate no-longer-used wireless phones to HopeLine*

*From the Office of Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence*



On Nov. 22 Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence announced a new initiative to raise awareness about a problem that affects thousands of Kentuckians: domestic violence.

“Domestic violence is a crime that many people feel uncomfortable talking about, but we must do better to protect families from the harm that can ensue,” said Lieutenant Governor Pence. “By encouraging Kentuckians to donate their old cell phones to HopeLine® and similar programs, we are at least making a small contribution.”

HopeLine was created 10 years ago by Verizon Wireless as a phone recycling program to benefit victims of domestic violence. HopeLine accepts no-longer-used wireless phones and accessories from any vendor. Most of the donated phones and equipment are refurbished and sold with proceeds going to support domestic violence awareness and prevention programs. Since going national in 2001, HopeLine has collected more than 2.5 million phones.

“We are asking all state employees and visitors to our state buildings to take a moment during this holiday season and donate used cell phones to the HopeLine bins displayed throughout state government,” Pence said. “If everyone will contribute, we will make a worthy donation to an important cause that will help families right here in Kentucky.”

In addition to the cell phone drive, Lieutenant Governor Pence unveiled a poster created by Verizon Wireless to raise awareness about domestic violence that he is asking all state agencies to display.

“We hope these posters will open people’s eyes to the fact that domestic violence does not discriminate...it can happen to anyone,” continued Pence.

The lieutenant governor concluded the press conference by announcing he plans to introduce other initiatives to address and target domestic violence in 2006.

Sherry Currens, executive director of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, applauded the lieutenant governor for addressing this issue.

“On behalf of the 16 domestic violence shelter programs in Kentucky, we would like to express our appreciation for the lieutenant governor’s efforts to raise much-needed funds for the shelter programs to continue to provide services for victims of domestic violence and their children,” said Currens.

The HopeLine cell phone bins can be found at most state parks, Kentucky State Police posts, transportation district offices and state Cabinets and departments.

*NOTE: State agencies and departments may contact Jeanne Lausche for more information on locating a HopeLine bin or obtaining a domestic violence awareness poster to display.*

### CHFS Focus Health Tip of the Week: Wrap the holiday gift season with safety

*By Anne Parr, R.N.*

There are millions of toys out there, and hundreds of new ones hit the store shelves each year. Toys are supposed to be fun and are an important part of any child's development.



Making the right toy selection for a child can be easy when parents are armed with the right information.

When selecting a toy for your child:

- Avoid toys that are not age appropriate. If a toy suggests it's not suitable for a child younger than 3, it's because the parts pose choking hazards. Toys for children younger than 3 should have parts no smaller than the child's fist.
- Steer clear of toys with small removable parts for older children that can pose a choking hazard to

children younger than 3. Use a small parts tester (which can be purchased at a toy or baby specialty store) to measure the size of the toy or part. If the piece fits entirely inside the tube, then it is considered a choking hazard.

- Be sure batteries are enclosed in sealed compartments, so small children can't get to the batteries, particularly button batteries. Batteries can be a choking hazard if swallowed; and if swallowed, they can leak in a child's stomach.
- Stay away from toys with sharp points or edges. Children may unintentionally cut themselves or others.
- Avoid toys that produce loud noises. Toy guns and high-volume portable cassette players can permanently impair a child's hearing.
- Pass up propelled toy darts and other projectiles that can cause cuts or serious eye injuries.
- Stay away from toys with strings, straps or cords longer than 7 inches. They could wrap around a child's neck and cause strangulation.
- Be very careful if purchasing electrical toys. They are a potential burn hazard. Avoid toys with a heating element—such as batteries or electrical plugs—for children younger than 8.
- Watch out for antique toys with lead paint. Exposure to lead can result in lead poisoning, causing serious damage to a child's brain, kidneys and nervous system.
- Avoid toy cap guns. Paper roll, strip or ring caps can be ignited by the slightest friction and cause serious burns.

Children typically don't know how to keep themselves safe – that's the job of parents and other adults. Parents and caregivers are responsible for a child's safety.

For a list of toy recalls, visit the Web site of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at <http://www.cpsc.gov/>. In addition, always complete and return the warranty and product registration forms for new toy purchases to ensure you will be notified of any recalls.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

## Employee Enrichment

By Anya Armes Weber



*Employee Enrichment is a weekly feature for CHFS staff. These tips for making work better focus on team building, customer service and personal development.*

When you've made a bad decision, missed a deadline or have hurt a coworker's feelings unintentionally with a minor remark, you may make the choice to apologize.

Saying "I'm sorry" may be difficult, but it can repair relationships and even prevent damage to those vulnerable to stress. The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System offer these tips for apologizing with grace.

- Take responsibility. This is the first step. If you've offended someone, admit it as soon as you become aware.
- Explain. Let the person know you meant no harm, but that you understand the effects your words or actions had on them.
- Show your regret. Be contrite and say that you are ashamed. The other person needs to see that you have suffered, too.
- Fix the damage. A good apology will offer a plan of correction. Whatever you have broken, propose a plan to repair it. If there is no obvious damage, sincerely ask, "How can I make it up to you?" Make a small gesture by sending a note of apology or buying a cup of coffee for the person you've offended at break time.
- Use good timing. Apologize right away for little things. If you bump into someone, don't wait to apologize; say you're sorry right away. But if you have done something more serious, like insult a coworker, put some more thought into your apology. A quick apology could seem disingenuous. Take the time to sit down with the person and apologize honestly.